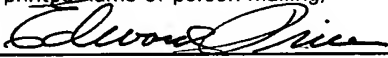


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56, and in accordance with 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant brings the following information with respect to the above-identified application to the attention of the Examiner.

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Patentee/Applicant</u>
US-5,938,231	08/17/1999	Yamazaki

Yasuhito MIYATA
Filed concurrently herewith
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

<u>Document Number</u>	<u>Publication Date</u>	<u>Patentee/Applicant</u>
DE 101 06 437 A1	08/14/2002	Bayerische Motoren Werke AG
JP 2000-108974	04/18/2000	Medina Duch Victor
JP 2002-137777	05/14/2002	Toyoda Gosei Co. Ltd.

The above documents are listed on Form PTO/SB/08A which accompanies this Information Disclosure Statement. Enclosed is a copy of each patent document listed.

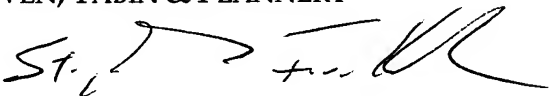
An English language abstract obtained from database providers is included herewith for each of the cited foreign patent documents.

Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(h), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to be an admission that the information cited in the statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR § 1.56(b).

Respectfully submitted,

FITCH, EVEN, TABIN & FLANNERY

By



Stephen S. Favakeh
Registration No. 36,798

April 16, 2004

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PTO/SB/08A Substitute for Form PTO-1449				Application Number	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Filing Date	
				Concurrently herewith	
				First Named Inventor	
				Yasuhito MIYATA	
				Art Unit	
				Examiner Name	
Sheet 1 of 1				Attorney Docket 79873	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Number-Kind Code ²			
		US-5,938,231	08/17/1999	Yamazaki	

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear
		Country Code ³ -Number ⁴ -Kind Code ⁵			
		DE 101 06 437 A1	08/14/2002	Bayerische Motoren Werke AG	
		JP 2000-108974	04/18/2000	Medina Duch Victor	
		JP 2002-137777	05/14/2002	Toyoda Gosei Co. Ltd.	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. ⁶ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.